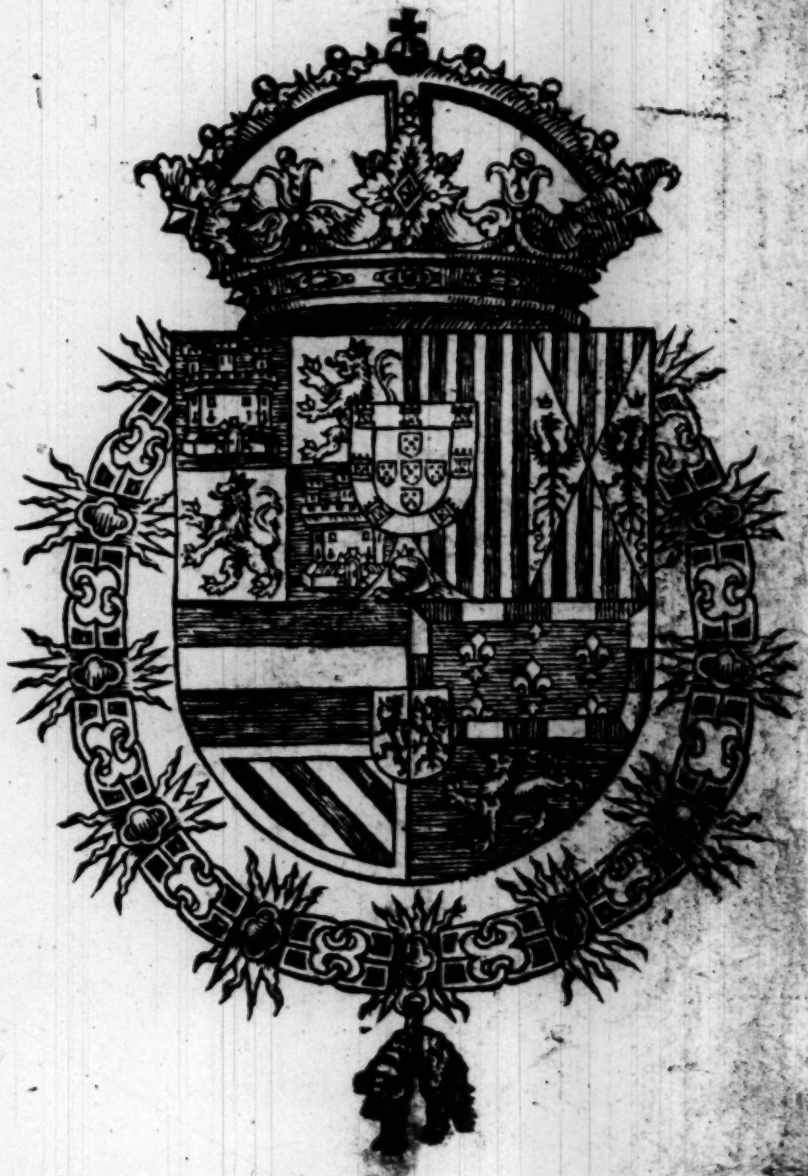

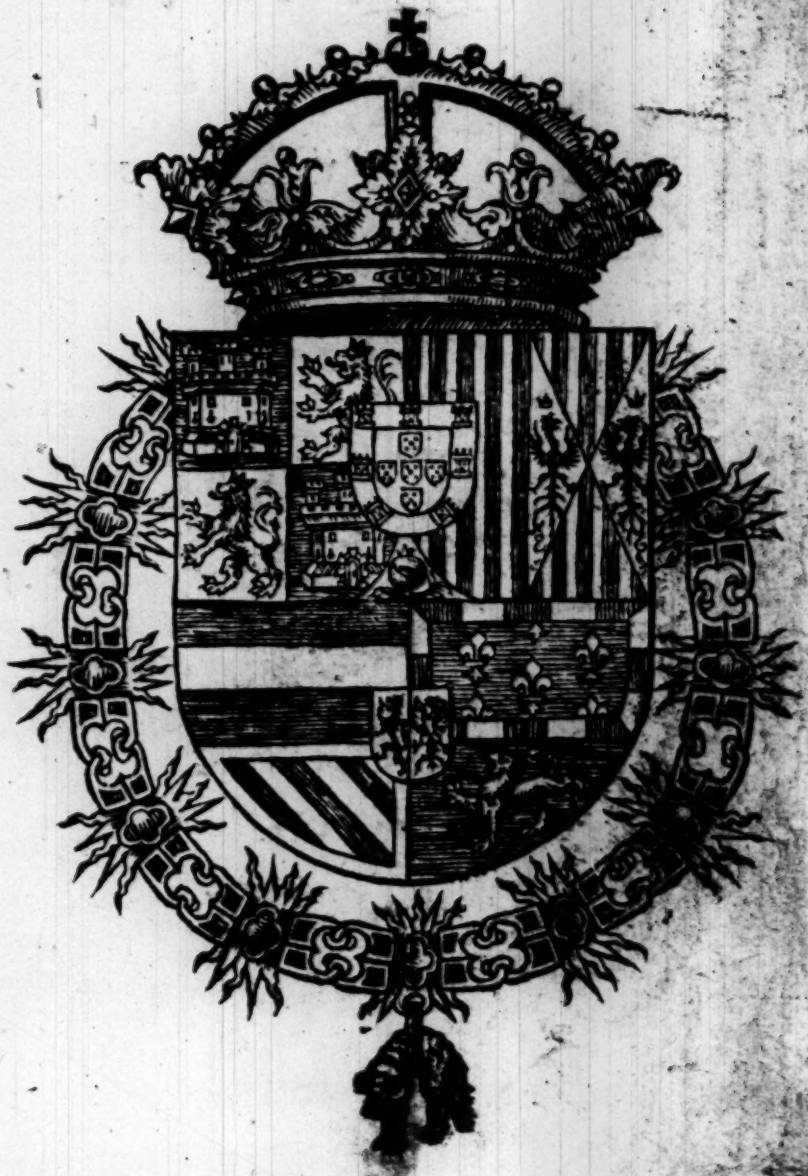

A PROCLAMATION FOR REFORMATION, Publiſhed and Commanded (to be obſerued as Law) by the Hie and Mighty *Philip* the fourth, King of *Spaine*, for the Gouernment of his Kingdomes.

Containing 23. ſeuerall Chapters, wherein his Maieſty with the aduiſe of his Councels hath Ordered, and Reformed many Notorious Abuſes in the Commonwealth.

Faithfully tranſlated out of the Originall Spaniſh Coppy Printed by his Maieſties Command.

LONDON,
Printed for *Nathaniell Butter*, *Nicholas Bourne*, and *Thomas Archer*.

1623

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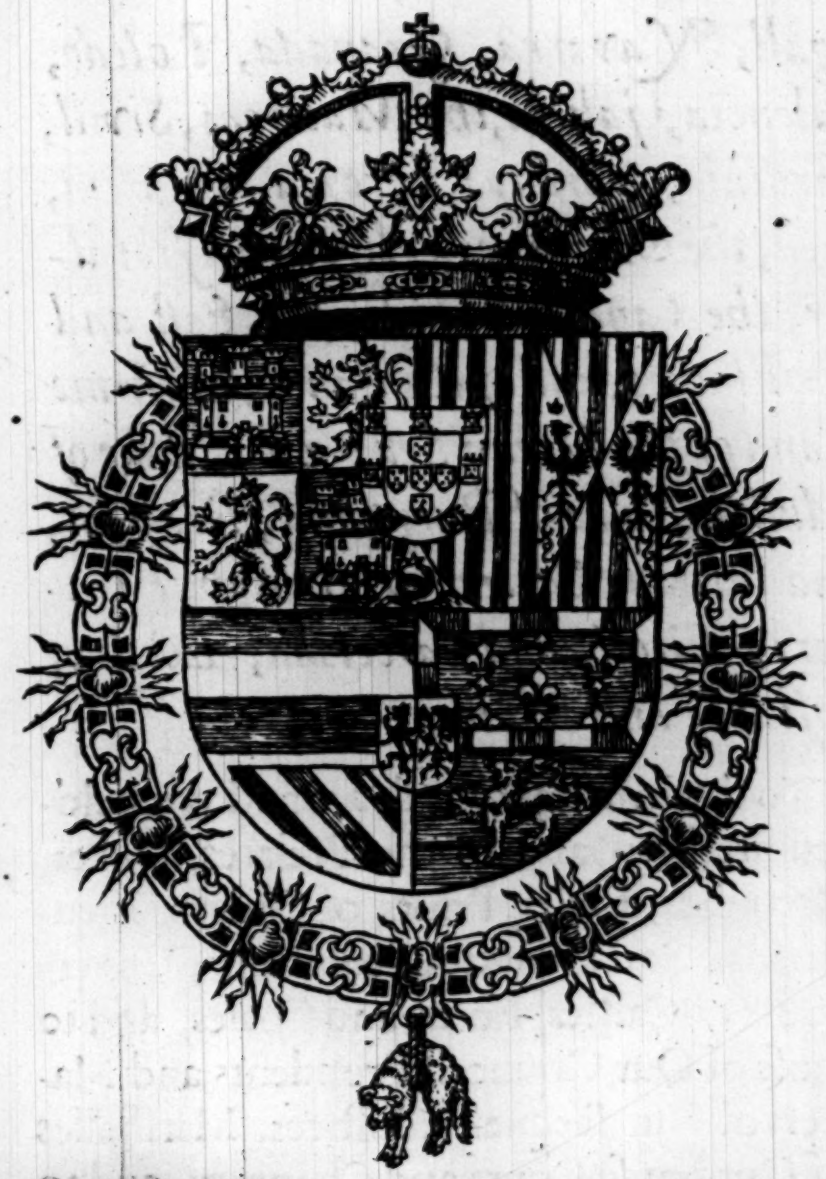
LAzaro de Rios Angulo, *Secretary to the Kings Moſt Excellent Maieſty, executing by his commandement, the office of Secretary of the Councell Chamber, do teſtifie vpon my fidelity, that the Chapters of Reformation which his Maieſty is pleaſed to command to be obſerued for the gouernment of the Kingdome, were taxed by the Lords thereof, euery one at the price of twelue pence, which containeth twelue ſheets, and they command that they may bee ſold for this price, and not aboue: and likewiſe they command that no Printer of theſe Kingdomes may print the ſaid Chapters: and Acts, but hee that ſhall haue licence and appointment from* Hernando de Valleio, *Secretary of his Maieſties Chamber: and that there may bee no doubt, of the commandement of the ſaid Lords of the Councell, nor ſupplication of the ſaid* Hernando de Valeio, *I gaue theſe Preſents in the Towne of Madrid the* 14. *of February,* 1623.

Lazaro de Rios.



PHILIP, *By the Grace of* GOD, *King of Caſtile, Leon, Arragon, of both the Sicilies, Ieruſalem, Portugall,*

tugall, Navarra, Granada, Toledo, Valencia, Galicia, the Maiorcas, Sivill, Sardinia, Cordova, Corcyca, Marcia, Iaen, the Algarves, Algecira, Gibraltar, the Canarie Flands, the East and West Indies, and of the Ilands, and firme Land of the Ocean Sea: Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundie, Brabant, and Milan, Earle of Auspurgh, Flanders, Tiroll, and Barcelona, Lord of Biscaye, and Molina, &c.

To the Infantes Our deare and welbeloved Brethren, and to the Prelates, Dukes, Marquises, Earles, Priors of Orders, Lieutenants, and Deputie-Lieutenants, Governours of Castles, Forts, and Chases, and to those of Our Councell, Presidents, and Masters of Our Requests, Iustices, Marshalles of Our house, Court, and Chancery; and to all Iudges, Iustices, Assistants, Governors, High-Sherifes, and Vnder-Sherifes, Bayliffes, Provosts, and to the Councels, Vniversities, Mayors, Aldermen, Recorders,

Town-

Town-clarkes, Knights, Squires, Constables, Officers, and other good men, and Subiects whatsoeuer, of what estate, preheminence, or dignitie, soever they are, or may be, within all the Cities, Villages, Townes, and Provinces, of these Our Kingdomes, and Dominions, as well, to those that are, as to them that shall be, and to all and every one of you, to whom this Our Edict, or any thing therein contained, shall or may appertaine, in any manner whatsoever, Greeting.

KNow yee, that Our Royall will and pleasure is, that in these Our Dominions, (having acknowledged it a most important and sufficient meanes, for the welfare and conservation of them,) there be instituted, appointed, and established, certaine Bankes and Treasuries, where may be brought in, and received, the Subsidies, and ayde moneys, which seeme to accord, and are agreeing, with the Lawes, Ordinances, Statutes, and Priviledges, and that there be ordained, certaine Squadrons of Sea-Forces, for the defence of the Sea, and to

the intent that by their execution, the ends may be ſecured, which are pretended for the vniverſall benefit of Our Crowne, reſtoring of Commerce, and profit, and eaſe of perſons, of every condition and qualitie; it hath ſeemed neceſſary to reſtore, and reduce to a convenient eſtate, ſome things of the government, wherein by the change of time, and other accidents, many inconveniences haue beene found: and it may be feared, that (if they are not prevented,) may increaſe, for that the one helping the other, the effects which they procure, may be greater, and more certaine. And having by Our ſpeciall Commandement diligently diſcuſſed, and vpon the whole with great care and conſideration conſulted, and deliberated, it was concluded, that Wee ſhould command, and by this Our Edict Wee doe command, which Wee will haue obſerved as a Law, and Act of Parliament, (as if it had beene made and enacted in Court of Parliament,) that from hence forward, theſe things following be obſerved and kept.

First,

FIrſt, Wee ordaine, and command, that the Offices of Maiors, and Aldermen Sheriffes, Conſtables, Bayliffes, Clarkes, Proctors of the Cities, Villages, and Towns, where (through the exceſſiue number of them) they are found inconvenient, and preiudiciall to the government, cauſing many grievances, which haue beene and are daily ſuffered, diverting the ends whereunto they were ordained; be reduced to a third part, in the forme, by the meanes, and with the qualities, which are contained in the Commiſſion, which for their execution, Wee haue cauſed to be ſealed by Our Royall hand the day of the date hereof.

Chap. I. *Reducing of Offices to a third part.*

LIkewiſe, Becauſe by the long and continuall reſidence, and great concourſe of Suters in this Court, there ariſeth preiudice to their houſes, and families, by the forſaking and neceſſity wherein they leaue them; and to their owne profeſſions, ſeeing they cannot exerciſe them, nor employ the time, with that decencie, and profit, as beſeemeth; and to the Offices, Commiſſions, and other occupations, when they obtaine

Chap. II. *That Suters may not reſide in the Court in any one yeare, aboue thirtie dayes.*

taine them, becauſe they haue leſſe abilitie and diſpoſition, then is requiſite; for the better exerciſe, and more ſecure adminiſtration of Iuſtice, and for other conſiderations of equall importance, other grivances haue beene acknowledged. Wee ordaine and command, that what perſon ſoever, that pretendeth Eccleſiaſticall office, or Secular Commiſſion, Temporall charge, or place, may come and proſecute his Sute in this Our Court, and preſent the reaſons and titles thereof, for the ſpace of thirtie dayes in every yeare, and no more, and ſhall be bound to record the time of their entrance, and departure, before the Secretary of the Councell, where the Sute ſhall depend. And likewiſe the Suters, which haue now Sutes depending in this Our Court, ought to be Regiſtred within fifteene dayes, and to depart within thirtie following, according to the forme preſcribed: and not bringing a Certificate from the Regiſter of his entrance, may not haue audience, nor be heard by any officer, nor haue counſell, or aduiſe.

And

Chap. III. *That Commissioners, nor executors of Commission may be sent.*

AND because that by the sending of Commissioners, and executors of Commissions, grievous inconveniences haue beene obserued, not onely in the gouernment and administration of Iustice, but in the quietnesse, comfort, and estate of our Subiects, (seeing that where they ought to haue proceeded with equitie, and Iustice, that the effects which from thence are wont to arise, to the seruice of God, and Vs, and the good of this Common-wealth might follow,) they haue in that manner transcended their duties, that vsing the same hand of Iustice to their owne commodities, and private respects, they conuert it to their particular profit, to the irrepacable preiudice of gouernment, with such vexations, troubles, and costs of the parties, who come to be grieued and oppressed, by those which should succour and relieue them, and to be without necessary remedie, seeing that through the remotenesse of places of Iustice, which should administer the relefe, they cannot come to demand it, and others dare not, and so they remaine with the grieuances which they haue suffered,

and

and the Commissioners and executors of Commissions, without punishment, wherby there hath beene, and is perceived a decay of Iustice in the body of the kingdome, and in the Subiects irreparable losses, which daily increase; and therefore it is most expedient to provide for the remedie, which the importancie of the matter requireth, and hauing considered, the causes of this mischiefe, and that by springing from covetousnesse, and through the difficultie to vnderstand the particular cases, whereby to afflict the punishment vpon the offenders, how much soever we are truely informed of the certaintie in generall, it will be difficult to apply the remedie, and therefore convenient and necessary, to come vnto the roote: Wee ordaine and command, that no Councell, place of Iudgement, Chancery, Audience, Corporation, Vniversitie, nor particular person, of any state, condition, or qualitie whatsoever, for any title, cause, or reason, doe or may send into any part of these Our Dominions, any Commissioner, or executor of Commission, nor any other person whatsoever, with Iurisdiction, com-

miſſion, or inſtruction, neither in other forme, at the coſt of the parties, or otherwiſe, vnder penaltie, that the perſons offending, ſhall be ſeverely puniſhed; and thoſe that ſhall admit the ſaid Commiſſioners, ſhall be perpetually deprived of their offices, which they beare, and make a double reſtitution of the Fees received: and that all the buſineſſes and cauſes, wherin it may be neceſſary, to grant a Commiſſion to a particular perſon, as well of proofes, teſtimonies, recoveries, executions, notifications, citations, as of other neceſſities whatſoever, wherein hitherto they haue beene ſent, may be henceforward remitted to the ordinary Iuſtices of the Cittie, Village, or Towne, where they ought to be done. And if by any reaſon or cauſe, any exception may be admitted, that they be remitted to the next royall Iudge belonging to Our Court; and Wee doe onely permit, that in Our Councell, there be Iudges, diligently to enquire, and looke into the caſes, and to allow them, if warrantable by the law, but not any other, of what qualitie ſoever, and Wee command them, to procure to

excuſe theſe caſes, as much as they may.

AND likewiſe wee command, that whatſoever is contained in this Act, be inviolably kept and obſerved in Our Councell of Our Revenues, and Our Eſchequer, vnleſſe it ſhall be in ſome excuſable caſe, wherein a receipt cannot be entred by the ordinary Iuſtices of Our Royall Revenues, as are the Impoſts, or any other member of Our Revenue, the adminiſtration whereof, conſiſteth in different places, without any ſettled being or condition; for in thoſe caſes a Commiſſion ſhall be graunted, having firſt of all, conſulted with the ſaid Councell of Our Revenues, and Eſchequer; and the perſon which ſhall be ſent, ſhall be ſuch as the Preſident ſhall appoint, and not in any other caſe, becauſe the adminiſtrations of Impoſts, and other Rents, are to be committed to the ſaid Iuſtices. And likewiſe, Wee doe command, that when in Our ſaid Councell of Our Revenues, there ſhall be made any determination, contract, or letting to Farme, there may not be allowed any par-

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ticular Iudge, or Commiſſioner, for the execution or accompliſhment thereof, or to capitulate with the parties, but that the one and the other be done, by the ordinary Iuſtices, and their officers.

AND becauſe as well in Our Councell, as in the reſt of Our Tribunalles, Courts of Iudgements, and in the Chanceries, and other Audiences, there are ſome Councellors, and Officers, which haue particular Commiſſions, whereby they name Iudges, Commiſſioners, executors of Commiſſions, and others, within and without the Court, for the diſpatches of buſineſſes which are preſented; and likewiſe ſubdelegate their Commiſſions, to other particular Iudges, that out of them, they may make others, and thereby the ſubdelegated may name Officers, and ſervants. Wee ordaine, and command, that from hence-forth, all perſons of what eſtate, or condition ſoever they be, as well of Our Councell, as of other Tribunalles, or any other particular perſon, which ſhall haue Commiſſion,

Administration, or Superintendencie, although it be annexed to his office, may not name, or send Iudges Commissioners, executors of Commissions, or any other person, to dispatch any businesse, nor subdelegate any particular person out of this court, but to commit them to the ordinary Iustices of the Kingdome, and to vse their officers, in the cases and businesse, which shall be offered concerning the said Commission, vsing likewise Our next Royall Iudge, when the ordinarie Iustice shall allow of any lawfull exception, which being conformable to right, may make it suspitious, who may not take other officers for the execution of the Commission, but those of the ordinary Iustice of that part, where the businesse ought to be done, without greater wages then their ordinary Fees.

AND also Wee doe command, that the Commission of the Kingdome, and the receiver thereof, and the receiver generall of the Fines, and Amercement of the Starre-chamber, and the rest of the Tribunalles, Chanceries, Audiences, Cities, Townes,

Townes, and Villages of the Kingdome; Treaſurers, Collectors, or the particular places by the diviſions, which haue or ſhall be made, may not henceforward ſend, Iudges, or executors of Commiſſions, for the recovery of any thing, but that the ſaid recoveries be remitted to the ordinary Iuſtice.

AND becauſe there haue beene found the ſame iniuries, both in the vniverſall and particular of this Kingdome, by the Iudges, and executors of Commiſsions, which are ſent by vertue of contracts made betweene parties, for the execution of them. Wee ordaine, and command, that from henceforth the ſaid Iudges and Executors, may not be ſent. But it is Our will and pleaſure, that all thoſe who by particular contract made before the publication of this Statute, haue cautelated the recoverie of their debts, by deſtinating, ſubmitting, and agreeing to ſend a Commiſsioner at the charge of the debtor, may doe it by vertue of the ſaid contracts, and writings, becauſe they may not be defrauded of the

ſecuritie,

ſecuritie, and condition, in confidence whereof, they delivered their goods, and without the which peradventure they had not delivered them; and becauſe in ſome contracts and writings, the parties haue not beene contented to capitulate, that they may ſend a Commiſſioner, but alſo another perſon with him, and both at the charge of the debtor, (the which in ſubſtance, is not neceſſary for the Recoverie, and onely cauſeth expenſes, and oftentimes an impoſsibilitie in the Debtor to diſcharge the principall,) whereby is occaſioned his vndoing. Wee ordaine, that the Creditour, in whoſe favour the ſaid contracts, with the ſaid qualities are made, may onely ſend a Commiſſioner or Recoverer, ſo that one onely be ſent, and that he haue onely one Fee.

AND becauſe for the iuſtification of the titles of ſome Offices, and of the Fees, and preheminences, which by vertue thereof appertaine to the owners and proprieters, there are certaine Iudges, called Iudges of preſervation of Titles: Wee command

mand that from hence-forth, the ſaid Iudges be not ſo called, or ſtyled, and Wee doe diſanull and pronounce, ſuch appellations to be voyde, and of none effect, and eſtimation; And Wee doe command, that thoſe that haue them, forbeare to vſe them, vnder the penaltie of two hundred Ducats, to be diſpoſed in three parts, whereof the firſt to Our Exchequer; the next to the Iudge, and the third to the Informer, and that the parties repaire to the ordinary Iuſtice, for the maintenance of the Title of the ſaid Office, and the preheminences, and rights, that by reaſon thereof belong vnto them.

AND becauſe ioyntly by providing the remedie of the miſchiefes mentioned, Wee muſt caution and nicely looke vnto the matters, and that by committing them to the ordinary Iuſtices, they may not faile to haue the ſecurity, and effects which are fitting, as well in the ſubſtance, as in the time and manner how great ſoever the preſumptiõ be in favour of the Iuſtices, aſwell in reſpect of the equalitie of their perſons,

as

as of their office and place, and therefore seeing they are ordained being of publique government, and so important in the Common-wealth, any other diligence or employment may be committed to their trust, with assurance that they will more carefully discharge them, then other Commissioners, notwithstanding, that herein no occasion of danger may remaine, We ordaine, and command, that if the said ordinary Iustices, shall not wholy performe the businesses and causes which shall be committed vnto them, with the punctualitie and care as shall be appointed, and set downe, by the writings and contracts which they shall haue to execute, then a Commissary to be sent at the charge of the partie, which may doe and execute it, in the time, and with the Fees, as the qualitie of the matter shall require, and as shall be appointed by the Councell, Tribunall, or person, to whom they shall remit the said cause.

But

BVt it is not Our will or desire to make alterations in the proofes of Gentrie, nor in the persons or Officers which are sent to the qualifying of Nobilitie or Dignitie, by the Councell of the Orders; because herein VVee will that the auncient Lawes and Ordinances be observed, and the stile and vse where-withall it is practised.

Chap. IIII. *That Fiats of Examination of Clearkes of these Kingdomes be not allowed for the space of twentie yeares.*

IN like manner by reason of the inconveniences which haue redounded to the common-wealth, by the facilitie of admitting and allowing the Titles of Clarkes of these Kingdomes, and the excessiue number, wherevnto haue amounted the Offices, with little conveniencie of government, and with preiudice to the administration of Iustice, and ease of Our Subiects, Wee did ordaine, and command, at the request of the Kingdome in the last Parliament, that for the space of sixe yeares, a Fiat of Clearke might not be allowed to any person, of any condition whatsoever, or for any title or cause, as more at large is contained in the Act, which Wee commanded to be published, wherevnto VVe refer Vs;

becauſe the exceſſiue number of Clearkes, and the preiudices which thence ariſe, is daily more and more diſcovered, and that by the ſuſpenſion for the ſaid time of ſixe yeares, the ſufficient remedy cannot be provided. VVee doe command, that the ſaid terme of ſixe yeares, wherein as aforeſaid, a Fiat of a Clearke of theſe Kingdomes ought not to be graunted, nor any perſon examined for the title of it, be and be vnderſtood to be the terme of twentie yeares in the whole, that within the ſaid time, none may be allowed, and the contents of the ſaid Law obſerved.

AND for to prevent the fraudes and deceipts, which are committed in Declarations by the Clearkes of the writing offices of the Number and Realities. Wee command the acts in this caſe provided by Our Councell be obſerved. In like manner becauſe it greatly importeth to the good government and adminiſtration of Iuſtice, and prevention of the exceſſes, which are found ſo preiudiciall to Our Subiects, Wee ordaine, and command, that the Clearks of

Cri-

Criminall Pleas, Common Pleas, of Aſſiſes, and Number of the Provinces and Realities, in taking of Fees, and ſetting them downe, for the actions and writts, which they ſhall make, obſerue and keepe, that which is ordained by the Statutes, and Lawes in this caſe provided, and that neither by themſelues, nor by any other perſon interpoſed, they receiue any more, or any other thing, vnder the puniſhments therein contained, and the loſſe of their office, and if they be not the proprietors thereof, then of foure yeares baniſhment, and that for teſtimony and witneſſe herein, three ſingle teſtimonies may be ſufficient, as in caſe of bribery, and they may be the ſame perſons, and if they will be Informers, they may be admitted, and haue the third part of the Fine.

AND to the intent that with greater punctualitie and Iuſtice they may take the Fees, which are due vnto them, and no more, Wee ordaine, and command, that in this Our Court, and in the Citties of *Valladolid*, *Granada*, *Sivill*, and *Corma*, none may be received or taken, vnleſſe they

be firſt taxed, and aſſiſted, by the generall Aſſiſter, and that the manner of proofe, and the penalties be the ſame. And that the Iuſtices of Our Houſe and Court, Chanceries, and Audiences, and ordinary Iuſtices of the ſaid Citties, doe not decree, nor determine any Sute, wherein this hath not beene accompliſhed. And becauſe the miſchiefe may be greater towardes thoſe that are priſoners, for that they little eſteeme who defend them, and are careleſſe of their liberties, VVee ſtrictly command, that in their cauſes it be executed with greater care and preciſeneſſe, and becauſe in what kinde ſoever of their Sutes they may be freed, it is vnderſtood they are moleſted with exceſſiue Fees, which they exact of them, VVee ordaine, and command, that the Aſſiſtor with one Iuſtice, (doing it by weeks) may aſſeſe every morning the Fees due by the Priſoners, which they haue cõmanded to be freed, & which ſhall be due, and delivering them to the Aſſiſtor, the parties which ought to haue them, may receiue them at his hands; and receiving them in any other manner; We declare.

declare them to incurre the like penaltie.

THat in this Our Kingdome the ſaid Clearkes, and thoſe which reſide in the Offices of Provinces and Number, doe, nor may take of either of the parties, any Fees in the Sutes that are to be executed, neither for the Bookes, which ſhall be drawne, nor the proofes which ſhall be made, during the tenne dayes of the proceedings, nor for following the Sute, vntill the cauſe be adiudged; and then the Aſſiſtor having aſſiſted them, the ſumme wherevnto they ſhall amount be put into a Bill or Writte of payment, which ſhall be allowed, that the principall, and the tenth part be recovered together, vnder the penaltie, of being deprived of their offices, and diſabled to execute any others.

AND becauſe many miſchiefes doe ariſe, in that the Clearkes deliver the Writts of execution to the Bailiffes, that they ſhall make choiſe of, not onely by being interreſted in the ſucceſſe, whereby it is to be

feared, that in the Records, and other Diligences, they may helpe the execution, but likewiſe, becauſe thereby many Bayliffes apply not themſelues to the matter of criminall cauſes, and delicts, but ſtand waiting in the houſes of the ſaid Clearkes, that the ſaid writs of execution may fall vnto them, VVee ordaine, and command, that in this Our Court, and in the ſaid Citties of *Valladolid*, *Granada*, *Sivill*, and *Cornna*, every day may be brought in the writs of execution, which ſhall happen, by the authoritie of the perſon that We ſhall depute thervnto, and thoſe be by him devided amongſt the the Bayliffes by courſe, that hereby every one with equitie may participate of the fruit of their Offices, & the inconveniences mentioned, as much as poſſiblie, prevented.

AND that no Bayliffe may enter in this courſe, vnleſſe he ſhall firſt bring a teſtimony from the Clearkes of the Peace, and the Iayler of the impriſonments, and criminall cauſes, which he ſhall haue done for thirtie dayes paſt.

IN like manner, that no Clearke in this Our Court, doe, or may take money, or any

any other thing, for making reports of the Sutes, which ſhall be heard before them, and the Iudges, in the firſt commencing of the Sute, or in appealing to Our Councell, Chanceries, and Audiences, and other Tribunalls whatſoever, but onely thoſe, which by the Statute ſhall be due vnto them, for the entrie of the Sutes, vnder the penaltie of the loſſe of the office, if it be their owne, and if not, the baniſhment for foure yeares, and that the partie which ſhall giue it, doe looſe the right of his Sute, and that for the whole, the teſtimony of three ſingle witneſſes be allowed ſufficient in the forme aforeſaid.

AND becauſe We haue vnderſtood, that the publique Scriueners, and Clearkes of this Our Court, and other places of Our Kingdome, doe apply themſelues to ſeeke moneys, that the Councels, Vniverſities, and particular perſons may take them to interreſt, receiving of them betweene three or foure in the hundred, by the title & name of Broakage, Wee ordaine, and command, that from hence forward they may not receiue money, nor any other thing, neither

by this

this title or other, by themselues or other persons, nor more then the Fees, which by the Statute shall be due vnto them, for the writings that they shall make. And because there followeth an inconvenience by the excessiue number of Clearkes, which are in the Offices, Wee ordaine, and command, that in the Offices of the criminall Pleas of Our Chamber, and in those of the Province or Comitie of *Madrid*, there may not be aboue the number of six principall Clearks, which may reside in every Office for the executing of businesse, and those the owners and proprietors of the Office to name at their perill, that if they be Fined, and shall not haue goods to discharge the Fine, it may be recovered of them: and that those of the said Chamber be approved by the Chamber of our Iudges, and those of the Province of *Madrid*, by the Iudges, before whom the Clearkes which are proprietors of the Office, make the dispatches of their businesse, and those of the Assises, or any one of them, and the proprietour which shall haue more then the said sixe Clearkes, We condemne in the losse of his Office.

And

And becauſe many Conſtables by diuers wayes and repreſenting cauſes and impediments leſſe certaine, haue taken out ſome reſeruations in ſome things concerning their offices, as are watches and wards and going out of this Court to make impriſonments, and other things; which being ſo; that they might be of more profit in the generall, by hauing more knowledge and experience in thoſe buſineſſes, and that this priuiledge and inequalitie is preiudiciall to the reſt, We command that thoſe that haue the ſaid priuiledge of reſeruall doe deliuer them to the Preſident of our Councell within foure daies, and may not vſe them, but that they ought and doe in the whole and euery part conforme themſelues, as they are bound by their offices, without any exception, vnder the penaltie of the loſſe of their ſaid offices, and baniſhment for foure yeeres.

That beſides the ordinarie Viſitor of the offices, which is named euery yeare by Our Councell, there may be named another, from three yeares to three yeares, by the Preſident thereof, that they may viſit all the ſaid Clarks and Officers, and certifie the abuſes

which shall be executed in the execution of their offices, commissions, & other imployments which they shall haue, especially contradicting the contents of this Act, allowing him thereunto a necessarie commission, which he shall vse before a sufficient Scriuener, remouing it (if he will) out of the Court.

Againe, We ordaine and command, that the Clarks of our Councell-chamber, of the Chanceries, and Audiences, may not take nor recouer the fees which shall be due vnto them for the Sceduls, according to the lawes, vnlesse they be first taxed by the Assessor generall, and setting downe vpon their fidelitie, or of their principall officers, that which they receaue and take in euery suite, and the like is to be vnderstood of the Relators in all the suites and Residencies, and that in making the bill, they exact not vpon the parties, nor receiue any thing, vnder the penaltie of the losse of their offices, and for testimonie and proofe, single witnesses shall be sufficient.

Chap. 5. *Which prescribes a reformation in the excesse of*

ALso because from the abuse and excesse in attendance, houshold-stuffe, and furniture of houses, and in the apparell

of

of men and women, there haue proceeded many inconueniences, as well in the gouernment and good diſpoſition, wherein it ought to be, as in the cuſtomes and eſtates, ſeeing that being voluntary expences once brought in, they are become ſo preciſe, that it is one of the greateſt burdens, wherewith the Subiects are oppreſt, and likewiſe preiudicial to commerce and trade, albeit that certaine Lawes were inſtituted, which ſeemed conuenient for the preſent eſtate, when they were ordained: but it is manifeſt by time and occaſions, that they haue not proceeded ſo ſufficient, as was expected, and that wickednesſe by contrauention, hath found out many deuices with encreaſe of the miſchiefes, deſiring to prouide a ſufficient remedie, and hauing commanded, to ſee what in this kind hath beene enacted, and to adde what ſhall be thought conuenient. We doe ordaine, and command, that no perſon of any eſtate, cõdition, or qualitie ſoeuer, may keepe or entertaine, of Gentlemen, Pages, and Laqueyes, aboue the number of eight or ten perſons, and who ſhall execute the principall offices of the houſe, as Steward,

ſeruãts, houſhold-ſtuffe, & furniture of houſes, and in the apparell of men and women.

Gentleman of the Horſe, and others; nei-
ther may keepe them employed in their ſer-
uice, to the end to accompany them or their
wiues, by the title of Followers or Houſe-
hold ſeruants, or other; ſeeing it only ſer-
ueth for oſtentation, and certaine inconue-
niences, which are therein conſidered; and
there is likewiſe imburſed, the coſt and ex-
pences which they cauſe in the houſes, and
it is more expedient, that they employ them-
ſelues in ſome other courſe of life, which
may be more profitable to the Common-
wealth.

And becauſe the effects of a matter ſo im-
portant may be ſecured, for the which the
example of the King, and his Officers will
be conuenient, ſeeing by themſelues alone
and by their offices, they haue ſufficient au-
thoritie, without that the great or ſmall
number of attendance can encreaſe or di-
miniſh it: let them know, that We ſhall be
very well pleaſed, that they continue as hi-
therto, a moderation in their retinue, procu-
ring, that, if it may be poſſible, it be greater
from hence-forward, ſo that the Councel-
lors and Officers, may not haue nor enter-
taine

taine in all kinde of attendance aboue eight persons, that by Our example and reformation of the number of offices and seruants, which We haue commanded to be done in our Royall House, and by that which they shall doe, reducing themselues to the said forme, there may bee a reformation in all the rest, and may proportion themselues to their estate and necessitie, wherein they are, seeing the lustre and authoritie of their houses and persons shall be better preserued and kept, liuing out of necessitie, and plentifully accommodated, than by consuming in an expence so superfluous. And because the seruants of the said qualitie, which now they haue in greater number than the said eight or ten, may haue departure and employment, and not vnaccommodated and idle; We command that whatsoeuer is ordained concerning this Act, may be obserued after the expiration of a whole yeere after the promulgation.

Chap. 6. *That nothing made of wood or any mettall, be garnished or gilt*

ANd because by garnishing things of wood or other things, & by gilding thē, there followeth losse, both in the expence & making, being a thing vnprofitable and superfluous;

with Siluer or Gold; and that there may not bee taken for the making or fashion, but the fifteenth part of that which it shal weigh, being of gold, and the sixt, being of siluer.

perfluous; We ordaine, and command, to obserue with all rigour, the contents in the fift Act with those following, from the twentie fourth title of the compilation, adding, that not any other mettall may be gilded, although it be plaine and smooth plate, vnder the penaltie of the losse of the peece which shall be so gilded. But Wee doe permit that it shall be lawfull to gilde all that shall be for Diuine vse, and the Armes, and furniture for horses, so that they be not for the vse of the Coach. And likewise Wee command, that no fashion of Gold or Siluer which shall be wrought, shall exceed, being of Gold, the fifteenth part of the valur of what it shall weigh, and being of Siluer, the sixt part, vnder penaltie of the losse.

Chap. 7. *That no kind of thing may bee imbrodered.*

IN like manner as concerning Hangings, let that be inuiolably obserued, which was published by the proclamation in the yeere of our Lord, 1611, adding thereunto, that it shall not be lawfull to make any kinde of Imbrodery of gold, siluer, silke, or thread, neither in hangings, beds, chaires, stooles, canopies, pillowes, carpets, caskanets, nor

any

any other thing, vpon cloth of gold or siluer, cloth, leather, canuas, nor any other kinde of stuffe whatsoeuer.

Also that no Imbroderer may imbroder any kinde of the aforesaid things, nor any other, vnlesse it shall be for diuine vse, and horse furniture, except foot-cloathes, for We will not that they be imbrodered, as neither liueries for the sporte of the Cane, running at Tilt, both on horseback and foot, running at the Quintaine, Ring, or other festiuall sports, that the disposition of this law may facilitate the vse of riding, and the exercise of these solemnities, and for the reioycing and delight of the people, and may take away the obstacle and difficulty, which is often found by the not hauing of the pompe and excessiue expence, wherewith they are now celebrated. We command that the contents of this branch or chapter be obserued from the first day of March of this present yeare.

Chap. 8.

That there may not be made Hangings for the

LIkewise also We forbid, that no manner of person, of what estate, condition, or qualitie soeuer, may haue or vse any hangings

Sommer of ſtrange ſtuffs, and eight yeares are allowed for the wearing out of thoſe that are made.

gings for the ſommer, of any ſort or kinde, though they be plaine, being wrought out of theſe kingdoms; but We permit that they may haue Damasks, ſhorne Veluets, counterfeit cloth of gold or ſiluer, and taffeties, ſo that that be wrought within our Dominions. And for the wearing out and diſpoſing of the Hangings which they haue imbrodered, and of ſtuffs made out of this Kingdome, and of other things imbrodered, the vſe whereof is prohibited in this Statute, We doe giue and allow thereunto the ſpace of eight yeares, which being expired, We condemne all thoſe that ſhall vſe them, and diſobey the contents hereof, in the forfeiture and confiſcation of them, and in fiftie thouſand Maravedis to be diuided in three parts, viz. our Chamber, the Iudge, and the Informer.

Chap. 9. *That gold nor ſiluer be worne in ſtuff of ſilke or trimming.*

IN like manner concerning fashions and apparell, We prohibite, and altogether forbid to men and women without any diſtinction, the vſe of gold and ſiluer, in ſtuffe and trimming, within and without the houſe, in all and all kindes of garments or apparell,

apparell, though they be doublets, gownes, night-gownes, caſſocks, ſhort coats and others, though they be for trauell, excepting (as before) for religious vſe, furniture for the warre and horſe, in the forme as they are permitted in the Statute enacted in the yeere of our Lord, one thouſand ſix hundred and eleuen.

Chap. 10. *That trimmings be not worne vpon garments.*

AND alſo We do altogether prohibite all kind of dreſſing & trimming, be it ſingle or double, though it be of one lace alone, in al kind of garments, either of men or women, that they may not be worne neither in doublet, ſhort-coat, gowne, night-gowne, caſſocke, hoſe, or other whatſoeuer; neither vpon daggers or garters, for Wee permit them only to be worne plaine, of whatſoeuer the garment ſhall be.

In like manner Wee command, that it ſhall not be lawfull to worke, neither for any Merchant or other perſon to buy (for to ſell againe) any kinde of garniſhing, or lace, trimming of gold, ſiluer or ſilke, from the day of the proclaiming of this ſtatute henceforward, vnder the penaltie both to the ma-

ker and buyer, of the losse of such trimming and lace, and of three hundred thousand Maravedis to be applied in three parts, viz. Our Chamber, the Iudge, and Informer: and because through the toleration hitherto, Wee consider that the Merchants haue bought certain garnishings and trimmings of gold, siluer and silke; and likewise the women haue bought many garmẽts, made with them: We doe allow the space of three yeeres to the said Merchants for to sell and dispose of them; and to the women the space of foure yeeres, to weare out their garments, and to vse the said trimmings vpon those which they haue alreadie made. And as concerning men, that they may weare out those that they shall haue made with trimming: Wee allow them the space of two yeeres, but that it shall not ben lawfull for them within the said tearme, to make or cause to be made, any new garment with trimming, because herein We will that from this present this Statute be obserued. And for the more certaine execution thereof, and to preuent all deceit, We will that the trimmings and garnishings, which the Merchants

chants now haue in their hands, ſhall be produced, manifeſted and regiſtred, that hauing the view of them, thoſe only which they now haue may be ſold: ſeeing for this intention, and that they may be ſold, it is permitted to the women to vſe them for the ſaid time, but not to buy others for to ſell.

LIkewiſe We doe prohibite, that the men may not weare ſhort cloaks, long cloaks, ſhort coats nor mantles of ſilke, but only of cloth or Raſh: But Wee permit that they may weare certaine ſtuffes, as Telilias, Sergies, Mingled ſtuffe, and other the like ſtuffes, ſo that they bee not mingled with ſilke, and that they be wrought within Our Dominions; and We permit that in winter they may line them outwardly with Silke, ſo that they be wrought within Our Dominions.

Chap. 11. *That cloakes of Silke may not be worne.*

IN like manner, becauſe in the making of cloth and ſtuffe, as well of wooll as of ſilke, or mixtures of both, hath beene and is daily found much deceit, becauſe, hauing no reſtraint, they are fraudulently and deceitfully

Chap. 12. *That cloth nor ſtuffe of wooll or ſilke made within or without the Domini-*

ons, may not be ſold without it haue a marke.

ceitfully made, and thereby are of little ſeruice and durance, to the great preiudice of thoſe that weare them: Wee ordaine and command, that from hence forward it ſhall not be lawfull to ſell or buy in thoſe kingdomes; neither for apparell, nor for any other thing, any kinde of cloth, of ſilke, or wooll, or of both, made or wrought within or without them, which ſhall not be made and wrought conformable to the laws and ordinances of the Dominions, which appertaine and concerne the makers and workers thereof; neither ſhall be lawfull to make any other manner whatſoeuer, vnder penaltie of the loſſe of the ſaid cloth or ſtuffe, and of a hundred thouſand Maravedis to be applied in three parts, viz. Our Chamber, the Iudge, and the Informer. And We doe declare, that the Merchants ſhall incurre the penaltie of this Law, if they ſhall haue in their ſhops the ſaid clothes and ſtuffes, without the qualities that are contained therein, and for to ſell, and diſpoſe of them, which they haue at this preſent without theſe qualities, VVe allow them the ſpace of three yeares, regiſtring them in the

the forme aforeſaid. But becauſe in ſome part of theſe Kingdomes, there are made and wrought ſome kindes of cloth and ſtuffe, of wooll, and ſilke, which if they be well wrought, will be profitable, and expedient not to hinder it; VVe command that thoſe of our Councell cauſe them to be acknowledged for perſons skilfull in their facultie, and finding them to be profitable, to ſet downe and appoint an order, forme, and direction, whereby hence forward they be made, and no otherwiſe.

Chap. 13. *That nothing made out of the Kingdome may be brought in.*

IN like manner, becauſe by the bringing in of many commodities made out of theſe Kingdoms, as hangings, beds, chaires, ſtooles, pillowes, bed-tikes, carpets, and others, and likewiſe apparell for men and women, and others of cotton, linnen, leather, alchymie, tinne, lead, ſtone, haire, and other kinds, which (being furniture for the houſe, and of vnprofitable vſage) doe conſume the eſtate and wealth, and hinder the labour and making of thoſe, which ſhall be profitably wrought, there ariſeth great inconuenience to the Common-wealth; ſee-

ing that hereby is taken away from the Tradeſmen, the occupation and diſpoſition of gaining their liuing, and ſuſtaining themſelues, an infinite number remaining idle, and vnimployed, and in the dangers whereunto the force of the neceſſitie obligeth them: VVe ordaine and command, that from the day of the promulgation hereof forward, it ſhall not be lawfull to ſet or put to make out of the Kingdome, any thing made of wooll, or ſilke, or of both, (ſo that it be not Tapeſtrie of Flaunders) neither of cotton, linnen, leather, alchymie, lead, ſtone, ſhell, Iuorie, horne, haire, but that the materials and the ſimples may only be brought in vnwrought, being of the things permitted, to the end that they may bee wrought in Our ſaid kingdomes, vnder penaltie of the loſſe of the thing which ſhall be ſo brought in, ſold, or bought, being made out of the Kingdome, and of thirty thouſand Maravedis to him that ſhall cauſe them to be made, ſold, or bought, to be applied in three parts, viz. our Chamber, the Iudge, and Informer: and to the intent that he may ſell and diſpoſe the things of this

qualitie,

qualitie, which he ſhall haue at the time of the promulgation of this Edict, wee doe allow them the ſpace of two yeares, which being expired they ought not to ſell them.

ITEM, We command, that all and euery perſon of what eſtate, qualitie, or condition they be, ought and ſhall weare plaine falling bands, and without any inuention, bone-lace, cut-worke, ſhagge fringe, or any other kinde of ſetting forth, or ſtarched with gumme, powdred blew, or any other colour, or ſet with a ſteele-ſticke; howbeit We permit that they haue ſtarch; and in caſe ſome man may weare a ruffe, We command that it be only of the bredth of the twelfth part of an ell; and that the curled lawne ruffe be but of eight bredthes, and that without any kinde of dreſſing, of ſetting, garniſhing of ſtarch, powders, or any other thing, and that it be all in one ſingle length, not opened with a mould, or any other inſtrument, and the cuffes to the ſame ſhall be but of three bredths, and halfe a twelfth part aforeſaid, and with the like qualities.

Chap. 14. *That they ſhal weare no bands but of the twelfth part of an ell, and the curld but eight breadth, both without garniſhing.*

qualities. Alſo the lettuce ruffes and cuffes of women may be vſed as heretofore, but ſo that they haue no bone-lace or other garniſhing more than one ſhagg fringe, nor may they haue any of theſe things in their falling bands, calles, falles, or any other habit or ornament, nor may they be done with powdered blew, vpon paine of loſing that which they weare contrary to this law, and of fiftie thouſand Maravedis to be diuided into three parts: viz. to the Chamber, the Iudge, and the Informer: which We command to be obſerued and executed in this Court from the firſt of March of this yeare; and in all other parts and places of this Kingdome within two moneths after the publication of this Law: And We forbid, that any man or woman open any ruffe either of man or woman, vpon paine of publike ſhame and baniſhment from this Court, or the place where they ſhall goe againſt this Law.

ITEM,

Chap. 15. *What Titles each ranke ſhall haue is rexu:d.*

ITEM, Whereas on the ſecond of Ianuarie in the yeare, One thouſand, ſix hundred, and eleuen, We commanded to publiſh and then was publiſht concerning the vſe of entertainment of curteſies, a Law of this tenor following: *Don Philip* &c. Know yee, that We hauing beene informed, that there hath beene and is much diſorder, exceſſe, and inequalitie in the entertainments, titles, and courteſies, as well in writing as in ſpeech, which are vſed among the Grandes, Gentlemen, and other perſons of theſe Our kingdomes, whereupon many inconueniences haue followed, We commanded thoſe of Our Councell that they ſhould looke into it, and treat of ſome forme which might be kept, that ſo theſe might be excuſed; and hauing diuers times thus done, and conſulted with Vs, Wee haue now agreed to prouide and order as followeth.

And though it were not neceſſarie in that which concernes my Selfe, and other Royall Perſonages to innouate in any thing

which hath beene heretofore accuſtomed, notwithſtanding that others with greater obligation and care may keepe and accompliſh that which is to be ſaid concerning this, We will and command, that in writing to Vs no other title be ſet in the top of the letter or paper, than *Sir*; nor any thing ſaid in the concluſion, more than, *God preſerue the perſon of your Catholike Maieſtie*, and without addition of any other curteſie or complement, the perſon who ſhall write any ſuch letter or paper, ſhall firme it: and in the ſuperſcription no more may be put, but only, *To our Lord the King*.

The ſame order alſo is to be held and kept with the Princes the heires and ſucceſſors of theſe our Kingdomes, only changing that of, *Your Maieſtie*, into, *your Highneſſe*, and that of *King* into *Prince*; and in the concluſion and end of the letter ſhall be put, *God keepe your Highneſſe*.

That the ſame order and ſtile be kept and held with the Queenes of theſe Our Kingdomes, which is to be giuen to the Queenes, and ſo to the Princeſſes as to the Princes.

That

That the Kings children male and female, be only ſtiled, *Their Highneſſe*: in the top of the letter, *Sir*, or *Lady*; and in the end, *God keepe your Highneſſe*, without any other complement; and in the ſuperſcription only, *To my Lord N. the Kings ſonne, To my Lady N. the Kings daughter*; and when it ſhall be ſaid or written abſolutely, *His Highneſſe*, this ſhall not be attributed but only to the Prince the heire and ſucceſſor of theſe our Kingdomes.

That the ſame complement be done to the Sonnes and Brothers in law of the Kings of theſe our Kingdomes, as to their wives, and to the daughters and ſiſters in law of the ſaid Kings as to their husbands. As for that which is to be done by the ſaid Royall Perſonages to others, it is not Our will to innouate any thing of that which hath hitherto beene and is accuſtomed.

In like manner We will and command, that the ſame ſtile which is vſed and obſerued in the petitions which are giuen in Our Councell, and in other Councels, Chanceries and Tribunals, and that which is

accuſtomed in ſpeech when they are in Councell, be obſerued as hitherto in all things which ſhall not be contrary to this Our letter and prouiſion, excepting only, that in the top may be put, *Powerfull Lord*, and no more.

That in the references of all Our letters, ſcedules, and prouiſions where Our Secretaries were wont to put, *By his Maieſtie*, they put, *By the King our Lord*, as now it is done; and that the ſame be done alſo in the references of the Notaries of Our Chamber.

And that in all other ſeats of Iudgement as well belonging to the King, as any other whatſoeuer, whether the ſpeech be in particular or in publike, the petitions, demands, and complaints ſhall begin in the line, and with the ſame buſineſſe which is to be treated of, without placing any title, word, or ſigne of any complement either at the top or any other part, only at the end it may be ſaid, *Wherefore I implore the office of your Lordſhip or Worſhip*; according as the Perſons or Iudges are to whom a man

ſpeakes;

ſpeakes ; and the Notaries may only ſay, *By the command of N. Iudge*, ſetting downe his name and ſurname only, and the name of the office of ſuch a perſon or Iudge, and the dignitie or degrée of learning which he hath, and no other title.

We forbid and defend, that no perſon either in word or writing, giue to any other of what eſtate or condition ſoeuer, what degree or office ſoeuer hee hath, great and preheminent though it be, the ſtile of *Moſt Illuſtrious Lordſhip*, except it be to Cardinals ; for it is not Our will that they be comprehended in this our Law. Alſo by reaſon of the authoritie and greatneſſe of the dignitie of the Archbiſhop of *Toledo*, Wee command, hee being Primate of *Spaine*, that all men be bound to ſtile him *Moſt Illuſtrious Lordſhip*, although he be no Cardinall. And We command, for Arch-Biſhops, Biſhops, and Grandes, and ſuch as We command to be couered, that all men be obliged to giue them the *Lordſhip*, as well in writing, as in ſpeech : And alſo for the preſident of our Councell, VVe permit that hee may be called, his *Moſt Illuſtrious Lordſhip*.

VVe command alſo, that ſuch Embaſſadours as haue place in our Chappell, are preciſely to be called and written, *Lordſhip*. And We permit that the reſt of the Embaſſadors which come from without theſe Kingdomes, may be ſtiled *Lordſhip*; but not there which goe from them to other parts.

VVee permit that Marqueſes, Earles, the great Commendadors of the Orders of *Santiago*, *Calatrava*, and *Alcantara*; the great Commendador of *Monteſſa*, the Keepers of the Keyes of the ſaid Orders of *Calatrava* and *Alcantara*, may be called and written *Your Lordſhips*: and the Daughters of Grandes, *Your Ladiſhips*; the Preſidents of our Councels and Chanceries, the Priors and Baylies of the Order of Saint *Iohn*, the Priors of the Covents of *Vcles* and *Leon* of the Order of Saint *Iago* during the time of their Offices, and the Vice-Royes, and Generals of Our Armies, Gallyes, and Armada of the Ocean, and he which is or ſhall be Maſter Generall of the Campe of *Spaine*, and thoſe which are chiefe Cities of Kingdomes, and thoſe other which haue Voice in Courts, and the Chappels of Metropolitan Churches, where it

hath

hath beene accuſtomed, ſhall be ſo ſtiled. And VVe will, and it is Our fauour and intent, that ſuch perſons as ſhall giue the ſtile of *Ladiſhip* to the Daughters in law of ſuch Lords of Title, which ſhall be maried to the Heires and Succeſſours in their Houſes, and to the eldeſt Daughters, who of force are to ſucceed, for not being able now to haue a Brother which ſhould be preferred before them in the ſucceſſion of the ſaid Houſes, ſhall not incurre the penalties of this Edict hereafter mentioned, nor any other. Forbidding, as Wee doe forbid that no other perſon of whatſoeuer qualitie, ſtate or condition he be, haue the ſtile of *Lordſhip*, neither in writing or ſpeech, or that of *Excellencie*, except he be Grande. And VVe declare that the treatie which is to be had with the wiues of Grandes, of Knights, and of other perſons, to whom (as it hath beene ſaid) it is due, and who may be called either *Lord* or *Sir*, and among themſelues by writing or ſpeech, it ſhall bee the ſame which is to bee performed to their husbands.

Moreouer, We command, in that which concernes one mans writing to another,

that

that generally without any exception this forme be held and kept, viz. the letter or paper which ſhall be written, ſhall preſently begin with the reaſon or buſineſſe in hand, without ſetting either vnder the croſſe at the top, or in the beginning of the line, any title, cipher, or letter, and the concluſion of the letter ſhall be, ſaying, *God keepe your Lordſhip*, or *your Worſhip*, or *God keepe you*, and preſently the date of the place and time, and vnder that the firme, without any complement either before or after, only he which hath a title, may put it in the firme with the place from whence he hath that title. And for ſuperſcriptions, to a Prelate ſhall be put the Eccleſiaſticall dignitie which he hath; to a Duke, Marqueſſe, or Earle, that of his eſtate; to Knights, Gentlemen, and other men, their name, ſurname, the dignitie, or office, charge, or degree of learning which they haue.

Nor ſhall any exception be taken or made againſt this order and forme of writing by any perſon, neither by the ſubiect writing to his Lord, nor by the ſeruant writing to his Maſter, onely

Parents

Parents writing to their children, or children to their Parents may before the proper name adde that which is naturall; alſo betweene the husband and the wife may be expreſt the eſtate of Matrimonie, if they will, and betweene brothers, cozen germanes, Vncles and Nephewes, that of their kinred.

And We will, and it is Our pleaſure, that that which is thus ordered and commanded in this Our letter and prouiſion be obſerued of all men, not only within theſe Our Kingdoms, but alſo in writing to ſuch as are abſent abroad.

And for the better keeping, accompliſhing, and executing of all that hath beene formerly related, Wee ordaine and command, that ſuch as ſhall come or goe againſt that which is here ſet downe and contained in theſe Our letters and prouiſion, or any portion or part thereof, that euery one of them ſhall for the firſt offence pay two hundred Ducats, for the ſecond, foure hundred, for the third, a thouſand Ducats, and a yeeres baniſhment fiue leagues from this Court, and from the Ci-

ties, Villages, and places of theſe Our Kingdomes and iuriſdiction where the ſaid law and edict ſhall be broken, the which pecuniarie penalties aforeſaid ſhall be diſtributed in this manner, viz. one third part to the Informer, another third part to the Iudge which giues ſentence, and the other third part to pious vſes. In like manner ſhall fall into the ſame foreſaid penalties ſuch perſons who from hence forward ſhall vnder-hand diſſemble or giue conſent that their children, ſeruants, ſubiects, or any other perſons, doe goe beyond either in word or writing to them the courteſie and order contained in this ſaid Proclamation, and the tranſgreſſor or tranſgreſſors, which haue not wherewith to pay the ſaid pecuniarie penaltie, it is Our will that for the firſt offence they be impriſoned twenty dayes, and if it be in Our Court, that they be baniſhed and depart from it fiue leagues for a whole yeere; and if it be in any other place of theſe Our kingdomes, the baniſhment ſhall be from that place and out of that country and iuriſdiction: for the ſecond offence the foreſaid

puniſhment

punishment shall be doubled; and for the third offence, they shall be banished for fiue yeeres in the forme aforesaid, reseruing vnto Our Selues, according to Our pleasure, besides the foresaid punishments, the making of some greater demonstration towards the said transgressors.

For which cause, the obseruation and execution of all the aforesaid, being so profitable and important, We command you all and euery one of you, according as hath beene said, that you take notice of this Our letter and prouision, and that which is contained in it, the which We will haue to hold the force of a Law, Edict, and Sanction, made and published in Court; and that you obserue, accomplish and execute the same, as such in and throughout euery part of it, according and as is contained therein; and that you at no time, nor in any manner wayes goe or passe against the tenor and forme hereof, vpon paine of the said punishments, and those other whereinto they fall who passe against and breake the commandements of their Kings and

naturall Lords, whatſoeuer lawes or edicts to the contrary notwithſtanding; All which We by theſe preſents doe abrogate, and take away, and giue for none at all, and of no value or effect: And ſo in like manner We command all Iudges and Iuſtices whatſoeuer in theſe our Kingdomes, and all perſons to whom the execution and performance of the foreſaid doth or any manner of way may belong, that inuiolably with all rigour they keepe, accompliſh, and execute it vpon the tranſgreſſors, and that, not hauing an Informer, they proceed againſt them *Ex officio*, and hauing an Informer, that the Iudge or Iudges either not proſecuting the cauſes or giuing ouer to proſecute them, ſhall incurre and fall into the ſame puniſhments wherein the ſaid tranſgreſſors ſhould haue been condemned and executed, and into two yeeres ſuſpenſion from their offices: And whatſoeuer ſhall be contrary to this Our law, diſpoſed by any other whoſoeuer in theſe Our kingdomes, We abrogate and nullifie all, and command that this only which is contai-

ned

ned herein, be kept, fulfilled, and executed.

And becauſe it is thus ordained and commanded, and that it may come to the notice of all, and no man pretend ignorance, We command that this Our Letter and Prouiſion be publikely proclaimed in this Our Court, and that that which is therein contained be obſerued and accompliſhed, and executed preciſely and inuiolably in this Our Court from the time of the publication, and in other parts and places of theſe Our Kingdomes, within thirtie daies after the publication; and that you both the one and the other, by no manner of meanes doe otherwiſe hereafter, vpon paine of the ſaid puniſhments. Dated in *Madrid*, &c.

And after, on the fourth of Aprill of the ſame yeere, wherein there are two Chapters to this purpoſe.

That to Princes, Dukes, Marqueſes and Earles, which be ſtrangers, may be giuen the ſtile of *Lordſhip*.

Alſo We permit, that our Embaſſadours which doe and ſhall reſide in Our Embaſſies

about the Perſons of other Princes, may haue the ſtile of *Lordſhip*.

Chap. 16. *Of the moderation of the Dowry, Iewels, and Apparell.*

AND becauſe the exceſſe and head, whereunto the charges are come which are made in mariages, and the obligations which therein are introduced, it is conſidered to bee a charge and burthen to the ſubiects, becauſe they conſume their commodities, and morgage their houſes, which doth increaſe the depopulation of this Realme, ſeeing that the ſame are ſo great, preciſely the dowries muſt be ſo, whereby they are hindered. For men neither dare not nor cannot enter (by reaſon of ſo great charges) into the ſtate of Matrimonie, conſidering that they are not able to ſuſtaine them with the goods they haue, nor women haue not ſufficient dowries to ſupply them, and from thence there ariſe other inconueniences in the cuſtomes, and againſt the tranquillitie of the Commonwealth; We doe ordaine and command, that for ſo much as concerneth the dowries, there be held, accompliſhed, and executed

cuted that which is ordained by the firſt law of the ſecond title of the fift booke of the Recollection, and that according to the ſame, euery perſon of what eſtate, qualitie, dignitie, or preheminence ſoeuer hee be, that ſhall haue two hundred thouſand Maravedis, and ſo vpwards to fiue hundred thouſand Maravedis of Rents, may giue in dowrie to euery one of his daughters lawfully begotten, a million of Maravedis, and no more; and he that ſhall haue leſſe rents than the ſaid two hundred thouſand Maravedis, may not giue, nor ſhall giue in dowrie aboue ſix hundred thouſand Maravedis, and no more; and hee that ſhall ſurpaſſe the foreſaid fiue hundred thouſand Maravedis, vntill a Million, and one hauing foure hundred thouſand Maravedis in rents, may giue a million and a halfe of Maravedis in dowrie: and hee that hath a million and a halfe of rents, and ſo vpwards, may giue in dowrie to euery one of his lawfull daughters, one yeeres rent, and no more, wherewith he may not exceed

ceed twelue Millions of Maravedis, notwithſtanding his ſaid yeerely rent be more than twelue Millions. And likewiſe concerning the exceſſe in Iewels, apparell, and other things, which are giuen and made at the time of eſpouſement: Let there be kept the ſaid firſt law of the ſecond title, of the fift booke of the Recollection, and in conformitie thereof, that no perſon whatſoeuer, of what eſtate, qualitie, or condition ſoeuer he be, may giue, nor is to giue to his ſpouſe and wife in Iewels and apparell, nor in any other thing whatſoeuer, more than the eighth part of her dowry ſhall amount vnto which he is to haue with her, which is to be in the quantitie and forme aforeſaid. And from henceforth we make void and of no value and effect, the contracts, agreements, or promiſes which ſhall be made in any other manner, and for loſt the quantities or thing wherein they ſhall exceed in any of the aforeſaid Caſes, and We doe apply them for the ſame fact to Our Chamber.

And

And becauſe there may with more punctuality be accompliſhed that which is ordained, that the Ioyntures may not exceed the tenth part of that which the free goods ſhall amount vnto; We doe ordaine & command, that in Our Councell chamber there bee not giuen any power for the diſpenſation therof, and from henceforth We make void, and of no value and effect, whatſoeuer power ſhall be giuen to the contrary: and for the more certainty of the execution of the premiſſes, the Notary before whom they ſhall acknowledge the writings, ſhall be obliged to giue an accompt of ſuch Contracts to the Iuſtice of the Country or place where the ſame ſhall be made; and the Notary of the aſſembly of euery place, ſhall keepe a booke wherein hee ſhall take the reaſon of the ſaid Contracts, and the quantity, dowry, and Iointures: and the Iuſtice ſhal certify whether the ſaid dowrie and Iointures, Iewels and apparell which they haue giuen, doe exceed the quantity which by this Act is commanded; and hee ſhall execute the penalty & application made for Our chamber: And that hence forwards this ſhall be put for an Article of reſidence,

and this law may not be renounced, but truly obſerued.

Chap. XVII. *That to the Ladies of the Court there ſhall be giuen but a million of* marauedis *in dowry, and a petticoat.*

ITem, To the end that (in Our Royall houſe things may bee ſet in good order) and Our example to be the ſureſt law, and an execution to others; We do ordaine and command, that to no Lady of the Court there may bee giuen for her dowrie and mariage, or to ſettle her for any other way, more then the ſumme of one million of *Marauedis*, and a petticoat, without any other preeminence or honorable title, nor office, nor other kind of dignity, which is the very ſame that was giuen in the time of King *Philip* the ſecond, my Lord and Grandfather: and with the Portugall Ladies let there be done that which was done in the time of the Kings of Portugall, before that Kingdome was incorporated with this Crowne, and that vnto thoſe of the Chamber, there bee giuen no more but fiue thouſand *marauedis*, which haue beene accuſtomed.

Chap. XVIII. *That his Maieſty will not giue any*

ITem, It is Our will, and We haue reſolued, that there ſhall not be giuen, nor Wee will giue

giue to any perſon whatſoeuer, neither for dowrie, nor preferment, nor other particular title, any place nor office of Iuſtice, nor publicke authority, nor any of our Royall houſe, and Wee command that no perſon whatſoeuer be ſo bold as to require it, neither by writing nor word of mouth, vnder penaltie of Our diſpleaſure and puniſhment as ſhall bee found fitting.

office, nor place of iuſtice, nor of his houſe, in mariage.

Chap. XIX. *Priuiledges which are giuen to the ſtate of Matrimony.*

ITem, To the end that for all there may bee a helpe for encreaſe, being a thing ſo important, and for the felicity and frequency of the ſtate of Matrimony, which thereof followeth; We doe ordaine and command, that foure yeares after the day of any bodies mariage, he ſhall be free of all charges and publicke offices, recoueries, hoſts, ſouldiers and others; and the two firſt years of theſe foure, of all royall taxations and offices, and of the forraine money, if it happen to fall vpon them: and if any marry before the age of eighteene yeares, hee may adminiſter and enter in the eighteenth on his goods; and thoſe of his wife, although ſhee be younger, without asking any leaue of Authoritie.

And to thoſe which are full fiue and twenty yeares, and are not married, may bee put to the ſayd charges and publike offices, and are bound to ſerue them, although they are in the power and houſe of their fathers.

ITem, That he which ſhall haue ſixe male children aliue, ſhall be free for all his life time from the ſaid charges, and publike offices. And although there be any of the children wanting, the priuiledge continueth.

And becauſe beſides the reaſons aforeſaid of the exceſſe in the dowries and charges, pouerty and want is, that many women are without meanes to bee marryed, willing to giue them ſome ſuccour; Wee doe ordaine and command, that from henceforth the goods which ſhall be (*moſtrencos*) in euery place, ſhall ſerue and be applied for the mariage of poore women and orphans; and from henceforth We giue the ſame to be applied for the ſame effect, notwithſtanding any lawes and orders made to the contrary; and that the ſame come into the power of the perſon which the Councell, Iuſtice and gouernment ſhall nominate, to the end that

from

from thence it may be employed in the caſes which ſhall happen by the interuention of the ſaid Councell, hauing a regard to the age, quality, and pouertie, and other conſiderations, for to qualifie pouerty, or for the preferment of them, if in caſe there bee more then one.

ITem, That amongſt the reſt of the forced Legacies of the Teſtaments, there ſhall hereafter be put a legacy for the marying of poore women and orphans, and they ſhall be bound to leaue ſome quantity or ſumme for that effect. And Wee doe charge the Prelates to gather the ſame, and to put the ſame in good keeping, and employ the ſayd legacies, & alſo the execution, as if Our moſt holy Father had beene pleaſed to grant it (as we haue deſired him,) and for themſelues in that which they can, examining the pious workes which ſhall be in their Biſhoprickes, applying them which ſhall bee found leaſt profitable, for the marying of orphans and poore ones, ſeeing it is ſo meritorious a work; and alſo the pious works which haue no perticular application, in ſuch manner to put it

to this, and that of the ſmall almes which they giue, they may apply that part which they can to this worke, ſeeing in the regular there is none, which can bee ſo much for the ſeruice of GOD, and good of this Kingdome, and for the ſuccour and helpe of the poore.

Moreouer, Wee require and charge all Prelates, of Churches, Cathedrals, & Monaſteries capable of goods in common, as well of Friars as of Nunnes, that they will iointly procure, and euery one by himſelfe, to remedie and helpe poore women and orphans in the places where they ſhall be, ſeeing that amongſt the obligations and almes wherevnto the Eccleſiaſticall goods and rents are bound, in the eſtate which this day this kingdome hath, this is one of the moſt precious and meritorious.

ITem, Becauſe it is very needfull, that the effects, which may be expected of that, diſpoſed in this Law, may not bee badly put forth for want of diſpoſing and exucution, Wee ordaine and command thoſe of our Councell,

Councell, that with particular care and consideration they attend that all that which is afore-said be kept, accompliſhed, and executed, alwayes procuring to vnderſtand if it bee ſo done, and in effect to prouide all that which ſhall be needfull.

Chap. XX. *The meane whereby the Nobilitie is to be appeaſed*

AND becauſe hatred, malice, and other reſpects, and particular accidents haue taken ſo much place, in the meane of the appeaſing of the nobility and pureneſſe, in the Acts which are required, with ſo little credit and conſolation to the Nation, with ſo much vnquietneſſe and diſcord in the Commonwealth, with ſo great coſt of goods and liues, and perill in the conſciences, which is iudged in the gouernment to be the worthieſt thing to be repayred, as well for the remedying of ſo great inconueniences, & by reaſon whereof there ariſeth generally ſo much dammage in the Kingdome and particular houſes, becauſe there ſhould be maintained in their primitiue quality and inſtitution, the holy Statutes, and the profitable and laudable ends of the common benefit, whereunto the ſame tended; and which by their good

vſe,

vſe, men haue beene experimented, and in ſubſtance being ſo needfull, and not to preiudice the ſame by the accidents in any manner, Wee ordaine and command, that from henceforth no perſon, of what ſtate and condition ſoeuer he bee, may not giue, nor let him giue, nor alſo to admit, nor let him admit memorials without ſubſcription, and that if the ſame ſhall be admitted in any Councell, Tribunall, Church, Colledge, or other communalty, where there is neceſſary the qualification of the nobility and pureneſſe, let no credit bee giuen thereunto, nor take place, if the ſame be generall, and render no particular reaſon of the things the ſame containe, although they cite and chooſe witneſſes, and although they alledge publique fame, and may onely be in order admitted for to enquire, and for no other effect, when they ſhall elect and chooſe *Sanbenito* or penitence, and the yeare wherein it was giuen, with expreſſion of the perſon whom it concerneth of the Church, or the party where he is, of the parentage which hee hath with the plaintiff, or with other *individuos* ſo particular, which truly induce the minde that it

is

is no malice; And alſo they may admit the ſame, when they ſhall manifeſt writings with equall qualities to the ſayings; or in caſe of citing of witneſſes, the ſame ſhall bee giuen before the Informer or Deputy, for in ſuch caſe they may examine the witneſſes, which therein are cited, as the Informer might examine them by himſelfe: and ſo ſhall giue no credit, as being cited in the memoriall, but for ſo much as ſhall be ſaid being examined.

Beſides, the words which haue beene ſpoken in difference, or extrajudicially in *corrillos*, or in conuerſations, doe not withſtand, nor ſhall not be an hinderance to the acts of Nobilitie and pureneſſe, whereſoeuer the ſame are diuulged and diſperſed, and being come to the notice of many, that the witneſſes ſhall depoſe thereupon, as not hauing more notice of the qualitie of the plaintiffe, then to haue heard the ſame, nor if hee had not cauſe nor reaſon to ſpeake the ſame, ſhall not be an hinderance to the pretention of Nobleneſſe and pureneſſe, as if it had not proceeded, nor ſhall not be grounded in another beginning, but if there be verification made thereof by the Informers, they ſhall

finde that there was a ground to declare it, becauſe the perſon was noted, or by other reaſons of writings, *Sanbenito*, penitences, It is Our will, that they worke as the Lawe ſhall permit, becauſe in ſuch a caſe the words ſhall not worke by them-ſelues, but the cauſe and ground which there is againſt the Plaintiffe, although the ſame are not declared.

ITem, Becauſe all matters haue their limits and termes to make them certaine, to the end the ſame may hereafter bee held for ſuch as being paſſed in an adjudged matter, it is conſidered, that thoſe of this quality ſhould not holde the ſame, but rather a perpetuall diſpoſition: and that after many poſitiue acts of Nobleneſſe and pureneſſe obtayned and iuſtly by the ordinary and iuridicall meanes, the ſame ſhall not be executed, becauſe the deſcendents by right line, require Law, but remaine ſubiect that the effects of hatred and malice which doe daily experiment, are more powerfull then the authority of the adjudged matter, and that the vehement preſumption doth ouercome the truth againſt

againſt the which the Law can hardly finde entrance. We doe ordaine and command, that in the quarter or quarters in the which there ſhall be thee poſitiue Acts of clearnes and Nobleneſſe (euery one in the Act wherein hee ſhall require) ſhall holde for being paſſed in an adjudged matter and ſhall bee executed, and by vertue thereof to require a Royall due for the deſcendents by a right line, for to remaine qualified by Nobles and pureneſſe, for all the Acts which ſhall be offered by the ſaid party, and ſufficiently to proue the deſcendence of the perſons which obtayned the ſaid three Acts, as it is treated in the *Hidalguias*.

And it is to be vnderſtood, that although the ſaid three Acts haue beene gained in ſundry Courts, Tribunals, Communalties, or Colledges, or in one onely, and in reſpect of a quarter, or of two, or of all, as the Acts ſhall comprehend them. But if the three ſhall not bee accompliſhed, and ſhall haue onely one or two, Wee declare, That the ſame ſhall not bee giuen as paſſed in an adjudged matter, nor the deſcendents ſhall not require any right, and are to make new

proofes of that quality in the ordinary forme, and comming to three, it ſhall cauſe the ſaid Royall due, and comprehend it.

AND becauſe the three Acts doe worke preſumption of truth, it ſhall thereby bee executed for the deſcendents, it is iuſt that they be of graue Tribunals, and whole ones, where with due knowledge of the cauſe the matter ſhall bee treated and determined of; We doe ordaine and command, that the ſaid three Acts for to worke the effect herebefore mentioned, are to bee of the Inquiſition, wherein there ſhall be familiatures, & of the Councell of the orders, and of the Religion of S^t. *Iohn*, or of the holy Church of Toledo, or of the foure great Colledges of Salamanca, and of the two greateſt of Alcala and Valladolid, and of no other Tribunall, Church, Colledge, or any Communalty.

AND becauſe according to law, ſometimes they returne vpon an adiudged matter, or by new inſtruments, or becauſe it hath appeared that thoſe which haue beene preſented were falſe, and for other cauſes enacted by

by Law alwayes in this matter; We doe ordaine and command, that the three Acts in forme aforesaid, in such manner shall make an adiudged matter, and occasion right to the descendents, that although after the same there shall be discouered any thing or reason which might be hinderfull, if the same had beene knowne before by any of them, the authority and effect of the adiudged matter shall be conserued and remaine in his force and vigor, for it is more credit for the said nobleneſſe and cleanneſſe to sustaine three califications wherewith it is approued, then to discouer (although it is by accident to whose knowledge it came) who gaue it; and persons haue enioyed the same, to whom it appertained not.

Moreouer, becauſe many persons with malice & naturall curiosity, more then for conueniency or other good effect, do keep in their power, bookes which they call *Verdes*, or of leather, and Registers, and Catalogues of descendents fabricated without more authority nor cause, then that which his owne indignation hath offered; wherby there hath and do arise vnreparable & iniust damages,

as well of the nobleneſſe, as of the gouernment and publique quietneſſe, becauſe there was onely ſeene written in theſe bookes and Regiſters certaine Families, they qualifie them for noted; and the depoſition of one witneſſe who hath ſeene the ſame, or hath heard ſay that the ſame were, it is not enough for defence, being ordinarily the moſt ſureſt, that they haue no ſubſtance, nor know not the cauſe and ground of their beginning.

Wee doe ordayne and command, that no perſon of what eſtate, quality, and condition ſoeuer hee bee, ſhall not, nor may not keepe any booke in his power, Regiſter, nor Catalogue, nor other paper, wherein it is treated of the clearneſſe of Families, or deſcendences, and that he burne thoſe which hee hath, vpon penalty of fiue hundred Duccats, to be applyed in three parts, for the Chamber, Iudge and Denunciator, and two yeares baniſhment from the place where hee is an Inhabitant, and from this Court fiue leagues.

ITem, becauſe in ſome Councels and Tribunals, particularly in that of the Inquiſition in the firſt inſtitution, it is vnderſtood, that

that ſome perſons which were called before them, examined be themſelues, and of their quality, confeſſed ſome things which were not true, nor had cauſe nor reaſon for it, and ſuch like Confeſſions haue prejudiced their Deſcendents, being ſo, that according to Law, if it ſhould bee proued the contrary of that which they containe, they cannot prejudice, becauſe the truth doth not moue for the only will: Wee ordaine and command, that if the ſaid Confeſſions be not helped with ſome other reaſon whereby it may be induced, that the matter is not in ſole termes of confeſſion, it is not ſufficient to hinder the nobility and pureneſſe, but proceed to qualifie it, as if the ſame had not beene, and according to that which ſhall ariſe let the determination bee, ruling this according to law.

ITem, Becauſe ſome of the Tribunals and Communalties which require Acts of nobility and cleanneſſe, doe draw nearer or faſter more then other qualities of the proofe and qualification, and particularly the Colledges, not contenting themſelues with the affirmatiue how that they are cleane, but alſo require

require, that the contrary hath not bin heard nor doubted, which quality and verification hath giuen occaſion that many families remaine noted vniuſtly by the malice and hatred wherewith many goe forwards in this matter, and if now it goe in the ſame forme beſides the foreſaid inconueniences, it would preiudice the reſt of the Communalties and Tribunals, in the which they require nobilitie & pureneſſe; We do ordaine & command, that all that which is diſpoſed and contained in this Act, be kept, accompliſhed, and executed vniformally and equally in all Tribunals, Communalties and Colledges, without any exception or difference.

Item,

Likewiſe becauſe the increaſe and multitude of people, is the onely and principall foundation of Common-wealthes; for the increaſe and conſeruation whereof, greater diligence and care is to bee applyed, though that many thinges contained in this Act, doe in ſome ſort prouide, and are thereunto directed; deſiring to hinder and ſtay the Diminution herein, which dayly encreaſeth, and to preuent the cauſes from whence it hath proceeded, and to diſpoſe the matters of Gouernment, and quiet of the Subiects, in ſuch ſort that there may be hoped great multiplication and increaſe; and conſidering the great importance that there is, to procure by all wayes and meanes, that this our Intention may haue his deſired effect, hauing conſidered the greateſt meanes which may bee auayleable hereunto: Wee doe ordaine and Commaund, that no perſon of what eſtate, condition, or quality ſoeuer, may depart out of theſe our Kingdomes with his Houſe and Family, without our Licence, vnder penalty of the loſſe and forfeyture of the goods that they ſhall leaue therein, and that the Iuſtices, Chap. XXI. *Meanes for increaſe of people.*

and Officers of the Ports, and any other perſon whatſoeuer, may ſtay and detaine the ſaid perſons and goods, that they ſhall carry with them, and ſhall be very carefull to vnderſtand the departure of any, and diligent for the execution; and whoſoeuer ſhall not obſerue the Contents of this Act, ſhall be depriued of his Office.

Likewiſe becauſe by the great concourſe of people in this our Court, and the great multitudes which reſide in the Citties of *Siuill*, and *Granada*, there ariſe many inconueniences, as well by the number which liue Idely, and the danger wherein they liue, in ſuch a confuſion, & the meanes wherby they procure their maintenance, as in the other Cities, Townes & Villages of the Kingdome, for the great importance, that there bee an increaſe in all partes, that the Land may be preſerued, and Iuſtice better adminiſtred, Wee doe Commaund, that as touching the Gouernment of this our Court, that therein there may not bee more perſons then needfull, and ſo great a concourſe be diminiſhed, and euery one may be knowne, who hee is, what Occupation, or cauſe of reſidence hee

preten-

pretendeth, and how long hee hath reſided, that the confuſion hitherto may bee remedied; being preciſely obſerued and kept, that which is ordayned concerning the Regiſters and Diuiſions, and ſhall bee ordayned by thoſe of our Counſell; and for many reaſons of vniuerſall benefit which haue beene conſidered. Wee doe likewiſe Commaund, that thoſe ſixe Diuiſions, whereinto the Court is diuided, and in euery one of which, one of the Iuſtices of our Houſe, and Court, with his Officers is commaunded to liue and reſide, bee deuided into ſixteene Diuiſions, the moſt proportionable that may bee, and that in euery one of them, doe reſide ſome one of our Counſell, in the Houſes which Wee commaund to bee allowed for them, who wee Commaund and Charge carefully to know and vnderſtand, the quality of the people that liue therein, and the Profeſſions and imployments they haue, what occaſions there are of ſcandales and offences towards God, and whatſoeuer elſe ſhall bee executed and done in the ſaid Diuiſion, that by the Authority of his perſon and Office, hee may procure it to reſt in a conuenient and ſetled eſtate, and

that for the accompliſhing and executing of the diligences and occaſions which ſhall bee offered, there bee appointed to euery one a Purſeuant of the Court, which ſhall liue in the ſame Diuiſion, and that the Iuſtice of the principall Diuiſion, ought to repaire to thoſe of our Counſell, who ſhall liue within it, and giue an account to them of what ſhall happen, and that they may appoint him what ſhall ſeeme conuenient, that by this care and correſpondency there may be a conſideration and accompt of the whole.

And wee Commaund, that hencefor-ward, no perſon of what eſtate, condition, or quality ſoeuer, may come to liue and reſide with his Houſe and Family in this our Court, or in the ſaid Cities of *Siuill*, and *Granada*, nor may bee admitted or ſuffered in them, vnder puniſhment of a Thouſand Duckets of the perſon offending, and from the Iuſtice & Gouernment, who ſhal admit & permit them to liue there, from each particularly Two hundred Duckets, and let it bee ſet downe for an Act to remaine.

And becauſe by the non-reſidence of the Nobility and Gentry at their houſes and habitations,

bitations, there haue beene found moſt grie-
uous inconueniences, as well in the publicke
gouernment of the Kingdome, and whereby
the neighbourhood & Villages are decreaſed
and depopulated; for that it is moſt abſolute,
that the ſeruants and vaſſals which were ſu-
ſtained by them, doe follow them, and in the
part where they goe, doe liue idlely and vn-
accommodated, & for that thoſe that remaine
behinde, and are not wel gouerned, nor main-
tained in peace and Iuſtice, as they ought: nei-
ther are the Iuſtices carefull to remedy it, ra-
ther in many caſes and occaſions proceed ab-
ſolutely, ſeeing themſelues ſuperiours, from
whence reſulteth the morgaging and decay
of their houſes and eſtates: ſeeing beſides the
loſſe of the commodity, and ſmall charge,
wherewith euery one liueth vpon his owne,
and the Obligations in the Court, and other
great places, being greater; the expences muſt
needes be greater, and therefore they encrea-
ſing, and the Tenants and Rents decreaſing,
(becauſe all ſuffer declination, and decay by
their abſence) it is of abſolute neceſſity, that
they muſt conſume and decay: and although
their owne conueniencie, being ſo well

knowne, might be ſufficient to oblige them to procure the remedy, that there might be no defect of our part, that it may be obtained. We ordaine, and commaund, that all the Lords, Knights, and other perſons whatſoeuer, who ſhall haue their eſtates, rents, and goods, charged with Fines and amercements, belonging vnto vs, with condition to redeeme them within a certaine time, may enioy the ſaid time, within the which they ought to make the ſaid redemption; with condition that this be, and is vnderſtood to be, being reſident in ſome place of his eſtate, or where they ſhall be neere, and ſo we reuoke that which is contained in the ninth Act, the third title of the fourth Booke of the compilation, by the which our Officers may make their demaund in this our Court, and we commaund to make them in thoſe parts, where conformable to right they ought, that by occaſion of ſutes, they may not leaue their eſtates, nor continue their reſidence in this Court.

Likewiſe, we permit that the Strangers of theſe Kingdomes (ſo that they be Catholikes, and friends of our Crowne) who will come

to

to exerciſe their profeſſions and labours, may haue free liberty: and we commaund, that actually exerciſing any Trade or labour, and liuing twenty leagues within the land from the Ports, they be for euer free from the tribute money, and for the ſpace of ſixe yeares from Subſidies, and ordinarie and extraordinarie ſeruices, and likewiſe from the common and publike charge, in the place where they ſhall liue, and that they be admitted, as the reſt of the neighbours, to all commodities; and we doe charge the Iuſtices, to accommodate them with houſes and lands, if they ſhall haue neede. And other Strangers, although they be not Crafteſmen nor Labourers, hauing liued in this Kingdom the ſpace of ten yeares, with a family, and being married to a woman of our Dominions the ſpace of ſixe yeares, bee admitted to the Offices of the Common-wealth, ſo that they bee not high Sheriffes, Gouernours, chiefe Iuſtices, Maiors, Sheriffes, keepers of pledges, Receiuers, Clerks of Aſſiſes, Receiuers of pawnes, nor others of gouernment: for as concerning this and eccleſiaſticall Benefices, wee referre them to our Lawes: and wee commaund the Iuſtices to

accommo-

accommodate them in all that may be, with houſes and lands for their labour, for the benefit, which is conſidered by their abode, with theſe conditions.

Cha. XXII. *That there may not bee Schooles of Grammar but in Cities and Townes, where there ſhall be a Iuſtice or Deputy.*

IN like manner, becauſe there are conſidered many inconueniences, by hauing Schooles of Grammar in ſo many parts of this Kingdome, ſeeing that in ſo many places, neither can bee had commodity for to teach it, nor thoſe which doe learne it, doe gaine the neceſſary fundaments for other facilties, are rather ſo ill taught, and inſtructed, that they faile altogether of the neceſſary principles and rudiments, and without ability or diſpoſition to profit in them; and ſo, many proceede vnto greater ſtudies, and looſe the time which they haue imployed in learning the Latine, which being imployed in other Myſteries and Occupations, had beene more profitable to them, and to the Common-wealth. Wee commaund, that in theſe our Kingdomes, there be no Schooles of Grammar, but in Cities and Townes, where there bee Iuſtices, wherein likewiſe may enter Lieutenants, Gouernours, and the chiefe Iuſtices of places of the

the Orders, and onely one in euery Citie and Towne ; and that in all the foundations of Schooles or Colledges which are ; with charge to read Grammar, the Rent whereof doth not amount to three hundred Duckets, it may not be lawfull to reade : And we doe forbid the power to erect or finde any particular Schoole of Grammar, with a greater or leſſe Rent then three hundred Duckets, vnleſſe it ſhall bee (as aboue ſaid) in a Citie or Towne, where there ſhall be a Iuſticeſhip or Tenencie ; and if it be erected, it may not be taught vnleſſe therein there be no other : for in ſuch a caſe we doe permit, that it may bee founded and erected, the Rent amounting to three hundred Duckets and no leſſe. And likewiſe wee commaund that there bee no Schooles of Grammar in the Hoſpitals, where expoſed and forſaken children are brought vp and educated, and that the Gouernours and Superintendants haue care to apply them to other Arts, and particularly to the exerciſe of the Sea, wherein they ſhall be very profitable, by reaſon of the want there is in the Kingdomes of Pilots. But wee will that the Schooles and Seminaries bee preſerued,

which ought to be according to the Councell of Trent.

Cha. XXIII. *That the publicke Stewes bee aboliſhed.*

IN like manner, becauſe wickedneſſe and corruption, to the height whereon Nature is aſcended, hath changed the nature and effects of excuſing greater miſchiefes, whereupon is founded the tolleration & permiſſion of the publick Stewes, in ſuch ſort, that it manifeſtly appeareth, that they rather adminiſter occaſion, meanes, and diſpoſition, that the ſame effects are committed, which would bee preuented, and that they ſerue onely as a profeſſion of Abhominations, ſcandales, troubles, and the corruption of many people; and becauſe it is vnlawfull to permit this in ſo Chriſtian a Common-wealth, and that Wee are Religiouſly bound to preuent, and cut off all offences, and occaſions of offences towards God, and eſpecially of this quality, ſeeing that by the contrary ſome great puniſhment may iuſtly bee feared, hauing thereby ſo highly prouoked and diſpleaſed his Diuine Maieſty; and particularly a greater proneneſſe and diſpoſition, then that is fitting being Diſcouered, in all places and in

all

all kinde of people ; And therefore the ſaid publicke Stewes haue remained in few parts, where they are leſſe hurtfull and offenſiue, by reaſon of the number of Women, that there abound ; and the diuers wayes that wickedneſſe hath inuented for the execution of this offence ; And hauing conſidered, that holy Kings, and well gouerned Common-wealthes haue preuented this michiefe, without any inconueniences that inſued, rather many conueniences thence proceeded in the ſeruice of GOD, and the Gouernment.

Wee doe Ordaine and Commaund, that from hence forward, in no Citty, Towne, or Village of theſe our Kingdomes, it may bee lawfull to permit publicke Stewes, or Common houſes, where Women may make a profite and ſale of the vſe of their Bodies ; and Wee doe prohibite and forbid them, and Commaund them to bee aboliſhed, and ſtrictly Charge thoſe of our Counſell that they haue particular care for the execution hereof, as of a matter of great importance ; and that the Iuſtices euery one in his precinct and Diuiſion doe execute the Contents hereof, vnder Penaltie, that if in any part they

ſhall conſent, ſuffer and permit them, for the ſame offence, ſhall bee depriued of his Office, and condemned in Fifty thouſand Marauedis, to bee applyed in three partes, to wit, our Chamber, the Iudge, and Informer, and this Act to remaine for euer.

All which wee Commaund to bee obſerued, executed, and kept; any Law, Ordinance, or Statute made to the contrary notwithſtanding: becauſe in ſo much as they are contrary hereunto, Wee doe reuoke them, and wee Commaund, that ſo yee cauſe them to bee executed and kept; in all thinges according as in our Edict is contained and declared, and that againſt the tenor and forme in no manner, now, or at any time hereafter yee proceed, or conſent to proceed. And becauſe it may bee manifeſt and notorious, and none may pretend Ignorance, wee Commaund that this our Edict bee publickly Proclaimed in our Court, and that neither one, or other doe any thing to the contrary, vnder Penaltie of Our diſpleaſure, and of Thirty thouſand Marauedis to bee confiſcated to our Chamber. Giuen at our Court of *Madrid*, the Tenth day of February. 1623.

BY

By the King.

Approued by
Don Franciſco de Contreras.
Iuan de Frias.
Gilimon de la Moua.
Melchor de Molina.
Don Alfonſa de Calriera.
Don Fernando Remires Iaruias.

I Pedro de Contreras Secretarie *of the Kings moſt excellent Maieſtie, cauſed it to be written by his commandement.*

IN MADRID:
By Tomas Iunti, *Printer to the Kings moſt excellent Maieſtie.* Anno Domini 1623.

Publication.

IN the Towne of *Madrid* the eleuenth day of February 1623. before the Palace and Court of his Maieſtie, and at the gate of *Guadalaiara*, where is held the commerce and Traffique of the Merchants and Tradeſmen, in the preſence of the Licentiats *Don Miguel de Cardenas*, *Don Luis de Paredes*, and *Don Diego, Franeos de Garnica*, Iuſtices of his Maieſties houſe and Court, was publiſhed the Act and ordinance contained in this other part, with Trumpets and Drummes, by publick Criers, with high and intelligible voyces: whereunto were preſent, *Inſepe de Vrraca*, *Franciſco de Meſa*, and *Franciſco Sanches de Acoſta*, Conſtables of the Kings Maieſties houſe and Court, and many others. Which was done before me

Fernando de Valeto.

FINIS.

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